

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01

DODE-00 NSC-10 SS-15 ACDA-19 COA-02 CG-00 RSR-01 /112 W
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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ALL NATO CAPS

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR NATO IC

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE NATO MEETINGS

REF: USIA 11202

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. OVERALL REACTION BY ICELANDIC MEDIA WAS ONE OF DISAPPOINTMENT OVER NATO'S INABILITY TO OBTAIN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH ROYAL NAVY FROM WITHIN 50- MILE FISHING LIMIT AND OVER INABILITY OF MINISTERIAL MEETING TO SOLVE DISPUTE AMONG MEMBER NATO NATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL ICELANDIC MEDIA REPORTED ON DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE BRUSSELS JUNE 7. MAIN INTEREST WAS IN ABSENCE ICELANDIC AMB IN PROTEST OVER BRITISH ACTIONS WITHIN 50- MILE LIMITS CLAIMED
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BY ICELAND AS FISHERIES JURISDICTION. SUBSTANCE OF MEETING NOT COVERED.

3. NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING COPENHAGEN JUNE 14-15 WAS SUBJECT OF INTENSIVE DAILY COVERAGE BY ICELANDIC MASS MEDIA, INCLUDING TV INTERVIEWS WITH GOI FONMIN AGUSTSSON, SYG LUNS AND HMG FONMIN HOME. COVERAGE CENTERED ON NATO'S REACTION TO GOI REQUEST FOR NATO INTERVENTION IN ROYAL NAVY ACTIVITIES OFF ICELAND. LITTLE INTEREST SHOWN IN DISCUSSIONS OF FUTURE OF ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, CSCE, MBFR AND OTHER AGENDA ITEMS. IDF PROPONENTS HAD HOPES FOR AGREEMENT DURING MINISTERIAL TO REMOVE ROYAL NAVY AND FONMIN AGUSTSSON HAD EXPRESSED OPTIMISM BEFORE OPENING. MEDIA COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON SCANDINAVIAN REACTION AND GENERALLY FRIENDLY ATTITUDE OF OTHER NATO NATIONS TOWARD PROBLEM, BUT EXPRESSED WIDESPREAD DISAPPOINTMENT OVER TOUGH STAND TAKEN BY HMG. COMMENTS BY SECSTATE ROGERS, SYG LUNS AND FONMIN AGUSTSSON GOT FAVORABLE TREATMENT, WHILE FONMIN HOME'S STATEMENTS ON ICELANDIC TV GAVE NEGATIVE IMAGE OF HOME'S ATTITUDE.

4. NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS FOLLOWED PARTY LINES. PRO- NATO OPPOSITION INDEPENDENCE PARTY DAILY MORGUNBLADID HAS BEEN HARD PUT TO FIND ANYTHING GOOD TO SAY ABOUT NATO SINCE BRITISH FLEET INCURSION. IN EDITORIAL ON COPENHAGEN MEETING, PAPER COMMENTED IT WAS CLEAR THAT NATO WAS NOW MAKING DEFINITE EFFORTS TO GET BRITISH TO WITHDRAW AND TO HAVE NEGOTIATIONS REOPENED AND THIS WAS FIRST REAL ASSISTANCE ICELAND HAD RECEIVED. MORGUNBLADID STRESSED ALL ICELANDIC POLITICAL PARTIES HAD SUPPORTED REQUEST TO NATO FOR ASSISTANCE AND THIS CLEARLY SHOWED THAT ICELANDERS TRUST ALLIANCE. EDITORIAL WARNED THAT NATO'S EFFORTS WILL TAKE TIME, BUT ICELAND'S CAUSE IS SUPPORTED BY MANY NATO MEMBER NATIONS. IT CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IT IS UNCERTAIN WHAT NATO CAN DO, BUT DEBATES AND PUBLICITY ON ISSUE DURING MEETING HAVE INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF, AND SUPPORT FOR, ICELAND'S POSITION.

5. THJODVILJINN, ORGAN OF COMMUNIST- DOMINATED PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE, DID NOT DEAL WITH THE COPENHAGEN MEETING DIRECTLY BUT USED OCCASION TO ATTACK NATO AND ALSO WARSAW PACT. PAPER REJECTED NATO'S ROLE OF PROVIDING FOR DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE, CLAIMING THAT IT PAVED WAY INSTEAD FOR US ECONOMIC EXPANSION INTO EUROPE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ECONOMIC BLOCS ON THE CONTINENT.

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THREAT OF NATO OSTENSIBLY CAUSED SOVIET UNION TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN MILITARY ALLIANCE WHICH IN TURN LED TO ARMS RACE WHICH CONTINUES. ACCORDING TO THJODVILJINN, TWO PACTS HAVE GROWN CLOSER TO ONE ANOTHER AND ARE NOW CONCERNED WITH PROTECTING " BIG POWER IMPERIALISM AND ARE AGAINST SMALL NATIONS AND THOSE SOCIETIES WHICH WANT TO TRAVEL AN INDEPENDENT COURSE". EDITORIAL ASSERTS THAT GREATEST THREAT TO NATO COMES NOT FROM

SOVIET UNION BUT FROM INTERNAL DISCORD, CORRUPTION, AND POWER STRUGGLES.

6. PROGRESSIVE PARTY DAILY TIMINN' S EDITORIAL OBSERVED THAT SINCE NATO HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MOVE BRITISH WARSHIPS FROM ICELAND' S FISHERIES JURISDICTION, ICELAND MUST BRACE ITSELF FOR LONG COD WAR. " ALTHOUGH THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF NATO WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN ITS ENDEAVORS IN THIS REGARD, ICELAND DID GAIN BY ALL OF THE PUBLICITY THE CASE WAS GIVEN AT THE MEETING AND BY THE PRESS." BRITAIN' S INTRANSIGENCE, ACCORDING TO TIMINN, LEAVES ICELAND NO CHOICE BUT TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION BY BUILDING UP THE COAST GUARD BEFORE NEXT WINTER. " CHARACTER, PERSEVERANCE, AND STEADFASTNESS IS CLEARLY THE ONLY LANGUAGE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS."
IRVING

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED ALL NATO CAPS.

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